

Clean Water Act Section 319 Project Guidance and Application Requirements

Eligible Grant Recipients

Governmental Agencies; subdivisions of state government such as conservation districts, water development districts, counties, and municipalities; universities; certain nonprofit organizations; and recognized American Indian Tribes are eligible to apply for Section 319 funds.

Application Guidance

Section 319 funds may be used for watershed assessment/planning and implementation, ground water and information and education projects that control NPS pollution. Applicant must follow both federal and state guidelines when preparing an application for funding.

Federal Guidelines

The US EPA Region 8 guidance for Section 319 projects contains the format required to prepare a [Project Proposal and Implementation Plan](#) (pdf) for a watershed, information and education, or ground water project.

Detailed national guidelines about the NPS program and project requirements are found in the [FY2004 NPS Program Guidance for States and Territories Document](#) (pdf).

South Dakota Guidelines

Application for Section 319 funds in South Dakota must be made through the South Dakota Department of Water and Natural Resources (DENR). **The department has assigned funding priority to watershed assessment/planning and implementation projects that develop or implement clusters of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) located in relatively close proximity.** South Dakota's TMDL waterbodies are listed in the [2008 Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality Assessment](#). A copy of the report is also available at libraries that are part of the state library system or from the SD Department of Environment and natural Resources

Applicants interested in submitting a NPS information and education application are encouraged to contact the South Dakota Discovery Center and Aquarium. SD DENR makes NPS information and education funding opportunities available through a partnership with the [Discovery Center](#).

While American Indian Tribes are eligible to apply through the state, Tribes are encouraged to investigate applying directly to EPA for possible funding through the 319 Program's Tribal set-aside. See Region 8 and National Program Guidance for details.

When preparing an application, please note the following criteria:

- Project duration should not exceed three years. Applications for watershed restoration efforts expected to require a longer time period should include a schedule of the entire effort which indicates how the project will be implemented in successive two to three year segments.
- Implementation project activities funded are restricted to:
 1. Animal nutrient management system (ANMS) design and construction for operations below 1,000 animal units. A 25 percent minimum contribution toward the cost of the system by the owner/operator is required.
 2. Riparian buffer/and related practices where the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is not an option.
 3. Shoreline/stream bank stabilization.
 4. Salaries, travel, and project administration.
 5. Information and education/outreach activities.
 6. Monitoring and evaluation.
- Funding for the construction of other best management practices (BMPs) must be secured from other sources such as:
 1. SD Department of Agriculture's Conservation Fund,
 2. SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks,
 3. EQIP and other NRCS/FSA Programs,
 4. US Fish and Wildlife Service, and
 5. Local funds and private organizations.

Access the [*South Dakota Watershed Project Funding and Technical Assistance Guide*](#) for a description of these and other programs and contact information.

- Best management practices must be designed to USDA/NRCS or other applicable standards for specific practices.

Compliance with Other Federal/State Programs Required

Applicants should be aware that practices requiring NPDES permits are not eligible for 319 funding. Examples include:

- Animal feeding operations housing over 1,000 animal units, and
- Phase I and Phase II Storm Water Permit activities.

In addition, if the application is funded, all project activities must obtain:

- applicable storm water construction and 401 and 404 permits,
- threatened and endangers species protection clearance, and
- historic preservation clearance.

Application Assistance

DENR offers assistance with the preparation of 319 project applications. Applicants should contact DENR as soon as possible to ensure adequate staff resources and time is available to provide services to all applicants requesting assistance. To request assistance, contact the Water Resources Assistance Program at:

(605) 773-4254 or pete.jahraus@state.sd.us

Submitting an Application

Applications for watershed assessment/planning, implementation and ground water projects must be submitted to SD DENR in either electronic and paper format post marked October 1, 2008, or earlier. The application must be accompanied by letters from project partners identified in the application detailing the availability status of the cash, in-kind services, or technical assistance they will provide.

Submit applications to:

Peter B. Jahraus
South Dakota Department of
Environment and Natural Resources
Joe Foss Building
523 East Capitol
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

pete.jahraus@state.sd.us

Project Review

Selection of applications for funding includes reviews by the South Dakota NPS Task Force and South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources prior to sending the applications to EPA for final approval. The applications are sent to the NPS Task Force member as received from the sponsors. For information about the Task Force's review protocol visit:

http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection/319_Review_Process.htm

The Board of Water and Natural Resources considers the recommendations of both the NPS Task Force and DENR staff in selecting projects that will be forwarded to EPA Region 8 for final review. Notices of SD NPS Task Force and SD Board of Water and Natural Resources meetings and meeting agendas are posted on:

<http://www.state.sd.us/denr/Boards/schedule.htm>

Section 319 Grant Timeline

October 1, 2008	Applications due.
Early November 2008	Applications available for review electronically at: http://www.state.sd.us/denr/DFTA/WatershedProtection . Paper copies available upon request. Contact the SD DENR Watershed Protection Program.
Early December 2008	SD NPS Task Force review.
January 8-9, 2009	SD Board of Water and Natural Resources review.
January - April 2009	Final approval by EPA.
May 2009	Project Grants issued by SD DENR.